

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges that claims 1 – 5 are pending with claims 1-3 withdrawn from consideration due to a Restriction Requirement.

The rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaeger, U.S. Patent 1,945,353 is respectfully traversed.

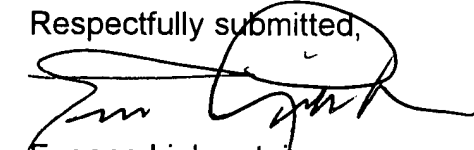
Applicant has amended claim 4 to make it clear that the first passageway is filled with catalyst to form a catalyst-charged part surrounded by the reaction tube. This amendment was made based on the Examiner's comment that this feature is not recited in the claim and thus cannot be interpreted as a limitation of the claim. Claim 4 has also been amended to add reference to the lower chamber of the reactor which is in communication with the lower end of the inner tube and is located opposite the upper chamber. In addition a lower shielding plate is identified at the lower end of the reaction tube for partitioning the reaction tube from the lower chamber. This is not taught in Jaeger. The upper chamber and the lower chamber define symmetrically opposed confined spaces of a predetermined volume with the unreacted gas flowing downwardly from the upper chamber through the central tube and through the catalyst in the first passageway and discharging from the lower chamber. In contradistinction, the catalytic apparatus disclosed in Jaeger does not form a lower chamber at the end of the reactor opposite the upper chamber with the upper chamber and lower chamber defining confined spaces of substantially predetermined volume and with the unreacted gas discharging from the lower chamber. Moreover, since the arrangement taught in Jaeger is substantially different from the arrangement claimed in claim 4, the allegation of the Examiner regarding the length of the central tube and the length of the reaction tube as claimed in claim 4 has no meaning.

For all of the above reasons, claim 4 is clearly believed to be patentable over Jaeger.

Claim 5 is a dependent claim which depends from claim 4 and is also believed to be patentable over Jaeger for the same reasons as given above.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 4 and 5 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

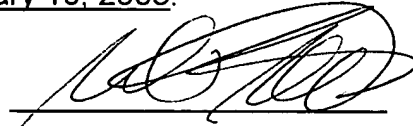


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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 10, 2005.



Date: January 10, 2005